

officers who are grieving. And my sincere thanks and admiration go out to law enforcement officers, firefighters, military and emergency personnel across the country.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred August 1998 in Bridgeport, PA. Greg Thorpe, 30, allegedly made anti-gay threats and assaulted a lesbian outside a bar. On September 23, 1998, he was charged with aggravated and simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, terrorist threats, harassment, stalking, disorderly conduct, conspiracy and ethnic intimidation.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

PRE-ELECTION CONDITIONS IN ZIMBABWE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to draw the Senate's attention to the continuing political and economic crisis in Zimbabwe.

This summer, the Subcommittee on African Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on this crisis. The overwhelming consensus of the witnesses at that hearing, witnesses from the administration, from NGOs, and from academia, was that Zimbabwe would continue in a downward spiral, with potentially disastrous results for the entire Southern African region, unless the rule of law is sufficiently restored to create conditions for a fair Presidential election next year.

I regret that recent events suggest that the Government of Zimbabwe is intent on taking the opposite approach. Zimbabwean authorities have expelled representatives of the widely-respected International Foundation for Electoral Systems, better known to many in this body as IFES. An IFES team had traveled to Zimbabwe to monitor pre-election conditions, which are critically important to a free and fair election. If the only information available to voters is state-controlled propaganda, if opposition party leaders and supporters are intimidated, and if the administrative structure estab-

lished to prepare for and govern elections is biased, the deck is stacked against democracy before voting even begins. Without international monitors in place, the international community cannot adequately assess these important issues.

In fact, despite recent encouraging reports that the government of Zimbabwe had agreed to a rule-governed land reform strategy in return for significant assistance from Britain, conditions continue to be grim within the country. Reports indicate that 900 of 1,150 farms are unable to continue normal operations because they are still under occupation, and food supplies are inadequate.

I strongly support rule-governed land reform in Zimbabwe. It is clearly urgently needed and the United States should provide significant assistance to such an effort. But the most pressing problem in Zimbabwe is not about land. It is about the systematic destruction of the rule of law; it is about the intimidation of independent journalists; it is about executive interference with the judiciary; and it is about the abuse of Zimbabweans who support the opposition party or have the misfortune of standing between ruling party-financed thugs and the objects of their desire. So far no evidence has come to light indicating that these fundamental issues have been resolved.

As the United States quite rightly devotes itself to fighting terrorism, we must not let the horrific attacks of September 11 deter us or distract us from our other important foreign policy goals and interests. This country must continue speaking out against oppression and in favor of freedom all over the world. Sham elections will not be legitimized by the international community, and President Mugabe's government cannot regain credibility if international monitors are barred from the country. The United States and the international community must work to keep the pressure on the government in Harare and to support the forces of democracy in Zimbabwe. I have joined my colleague, Senator FRIST, in sponsoring the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act for this very purpose. The bill has passed the Senate unanimously, and I urge my colleagues in the House to take it up. In Zimbabwe, where many courageous citizens continue to struggle to protect their institutions and to save their country from lawlessness, our honesty and our solidarity is needed now more than ever.

REPORT ON FOREIGN TRAVEL: TAIWAN, CHINA, AND SOUTH KOREA

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, from August 4-11, 2001, I joined Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman JOSEPH BIDEN, Senator PAUL SARBANES

and Senator FRED THOMPSON on a congressional delegation to Taiwan, mainland China, and South Korea, with a brief stopover in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Pearl Harbor Naval Base.

During our very brief time in Hawaii, the delegation met with Admiral Dennis Blair, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command. In preparation for our scheduled meetings with various Asian heads of state, Admiral Blair outlined U.S. preparedness and presence in the Asian Pacific region.

In Taipei, following an extensive briefing from the American Institute of Taiwan Director Raymond Burghardt on the status of cross-Straits relations, the delegation met with Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian at the Presidential Palace on Monday, August 6, 2001. President Chen seemed genuinely pleased that Taiwan was the first stop on our delegation's multi-country jaunt, and recognized and appreciated the U.S. Congress's longstanding friendship with the Republic of China.

The President discussed his efforts as Mayor of Taipei to improve cross-Straits relations, and stressed his resolve to continue down this path as President. He said he believed that he has made "good sincere gestures" to the People's Republic of China, but continues to be disappointed in what he sees as rebuffs of his efforts by Beijing. He cited Beijing's disregard for Taiwan's plan for tourism by citizens of mainland China as an example of this lack of Chinese engagement.

I raised the point that many in the U.S. are concerned about several issues involving Southeast Asia, such as China's allegedly illegal sales of weapons of mass destruction and China's human rights record. When facing whether to grant permanent normalized trade relations, PNTR, with China, I let him know my view that I believed it better to leave trade status subject to annual review to retain leverage in U.S.-China talks on proliferation, human rights, and many other items.

President Chen countered that in order for all countries' relationships with China to improve, China must become a trustworthy member of the international community and abide by international laws. He believed that PNTR would help this process along, and he would support the granting of such status by the U.S.

President Chen said he believed that the U.S. could play a more active role in the region, but that belief seemed to be tempered by his recognition that it is inappropriate for the U.S. to act as a mediator. He said he will continue to attempt to engage the mainland in cross-Straits talks, and that he is not discouraged by the failure of past efforts.

From Taipei we traveled to Shanghai, China, on Tuesday, August 7, 2001, for another brief stay, and conducted a working lunch meeting with members